

Liaison

Library Association News-Sheet

News Editors: E. E. Moon and R. G. Surridge

February 1958

TRADE UNION FOR CHARTERED LIBRARIANS?

The Council has been re-investigating its present policy and procedure relating to posts advertised at inadequate salaries. The most significant result of this investigation is that the L.A. is now to approach the Society of Municipal and County Chief Librarians with a request for that body to consider widening its scope to include the negotiation of salaries and conditions for all Chartered Librarians engaged in local government.

The L.A.'s present procedure will be continued with some slight amendments, but action will be taken only at the discretion of the Chairman of the Membership Committee and the Membership Officer in cases (a) where it appears that a breach of a nationally negotiated salary agreement is made or contemplated by an employing authority, or, (b) where the advertised salary is considerably and demonstrably below the average for libraries with comparable services.

Members of the Association are advised that if a notice is inserted in the *Times Literary Supplement* regarding an advertised appointment, they are automatically urged by the Council not to apply for it. In addition to receiving the present letter inviting them not to apply, intending candidates will now also receive a copy of the representations made by the L.A. to the local authority, which will inform them of the basis of the protest and the reasons for the claim for upgrading the post.

The strain on the loyalty of members was instanced in several recent cases where one or more members had refused to withdraw when advised to do so. This factor was one of the principal reasons for the reappraisal of the present procedure. **Success in these negotiations cannot be obtained without the loyal support of all members.**

LIAISON EDITOR RESIGNS

To Leave Profession

Mr. W. G. Smith, Joint News Editor of *Liaison* since its inception in January 1957, and Branch Librarian at Westminster, is leaving the library profession early in February to become Editor of *Books and Bookmen*, which is published by Hansom Books Ltd.

Librarians will have noticed that Mr. Smith was a frequent contributor to *Bookguide* and *Technical Bookguide*, other Hansom Books periodicals. He was offered his new post following the departure of the Editor of *Books and Bookmen*, Mr. James Gordon, to

take up an appointment with Thames and Hudson.

Mr. Smith was very active in professional circles, and his new move creates a number of gaps, particularly in the A.A.L., where he was Honorary Editor of the *Assistant Librarian* and Chairman of the Greater London Division.

New Editor

Mr. Smith's successor as Joint Editor will be Mr. R. G. Surridge. Mr. Surridge is a District Librarian at Finchley. He has been a prominent member of the Association of Assistant Librarians for a number of years, and is at present Honorary Assistant Secretary of that Section. He has served for some time on the L.A. Membership Committee.

LETTERS

Presidential Induction

I note in this month's *Liaison* that the L.A. Council have now found that it is not possible to implement the decision of the A.G.M. that the president should be inducted at the conference unless the bye-laws are altered and I would like to know why we were not informed of this obstacle at the A.G.M. Instead we were given some phoney arguments on administrative difficulties and the need for the President to have some practice at Council meetings before tackling the conference. The proposal before the A.G.M. was submitted in plenty of time for the matter of the bye-laws to be investigated and I suggest that the Council was either deliberately deceiving the members at the A.G.M. or had not taken the trouble to study the motion and its implications.

I trust that the mover of the motion will seek to amend the bye-laws in this respect.

FRANK FORDHAM
Bury St. Edmunds P.L.

Mr. Francis reported to the January Council meeting that he had discussed with the movers the resolution and the memorandum on the induction of the President, and they had explained that their intention in and interpretation of the original motion was that the President should be invested with the Presidential Badge at the first meeting of the Annual Conference. The Council agreed to accept this procedure.

Eds.

DEFAULTERS

A brief notice in this month's *Liaison* states that nearly 1,000 members are in default of their subscriptions, and that their names have been removed from the Register.

This will be, I am sure, astonishing and disturbing news to all Librarians in the Association, since the defaulting members must be those who have taken their first professional examinations to fit themselves for higher appointments in the Library Service. In these circumstances, their protest should not pass without some investigation. For instance, are members paying too high a subscription, having regard to the low pay of librarians? Any interest shown by the Association in the pay of librarians (not headships)? Have conditions of service been investigated—evening duty, broken time, overtime, holidays, staff amenities, relationships between librarians and their employers, and/or principals (not necessarily Librarians), and a host of other matters?

CAPT. L. J. P. GASKIN
Horniman Museum and Library

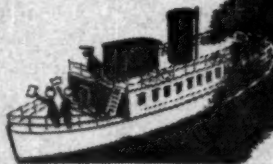
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LIDINGÖ STADBIBLIOTEK, centralbibliotek för Stockholms län

Poster used to announce visit of Lidingö Book-
boat service mentioned in Mr. Hale's letter on
opposite page.

CANADIAN SALARIES

The tailpiece to the article "Larger Library Units advocated by the Canadian Library Association" (*Liaison*, December 1957) mentions the minimum salary recommended for Chartered Librarians. This may sound a large sum for a minimum salary but I would hasten to point out that this salary has to support a librarian in Canada, not Britain. If the cost-of-living in Canada is similar to the United States (which I presume it is) then the real value of such a salary would be considerably less than £1,300.

However, in fairness, I would add that the value of such a salary would be worth more than the amount paid at present to those Chartered Librarians on A.P.T. Grade I.

T. M. HODGES
Hamilton College Library,
Clinton, New York

Mr. James Swift, Holborn Borough Librarian, has been elected chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Chief Librarians and also of the Advisory Body of Librarians.

BOOK-BOAT

May I call attention to an error which appeared in *Liaison* (December) in the paragraph headed "library railcars". It was stated that a "librarian of the Norwegian municipal library of Kiruna deals with the loans". As I visited Kiruna this autumn during an exchange trip to Sweden, I can assure you that Kiruna is in Sweden and not Norway.

The diesel rail-bus is lent to the Library, with a crew, to serve the people living alongside the track, who are mainly employees of the State Railways. It covers the 13 Swedish miles, nearly 80 English miles, from Kiruna to the Norwegian frontier.

The librarian of Kiruna, which is well inside the Arctic Circle, is Kai Söderhjelm, well known to his Swedish colleagues as an author of children's books, and for his collection of Finnish books. He has also achieved the distinction of being the first Swedish librarian to use an aeroplane to deliver book-boxes to an isolated settlement in his area.

Another interesting and somewhat unusual library service in Sweden is operated by Lidingö Stadsbibliotek: the "Bokbåten", or Book-boat, which serves the islands of the Stockholm archipelago. In this case, a boat is hired, complete with cook and crew, twice a year, in the spring and autumn. It is fitted out with shelving, and the Librarian, and assistants, sail off for a three-weeks' tour of the islands. Boxes of books are left with families, usually books of their own choice, and whenever possible arrangements are made for the books to be circulated between the families, through the good offices of one of the Islanders. Often these islands are quite isolated for long periods and therefore it can be imagined how popular this service is amongst the people.

I understand that a similar service has been started recently by Gothenburg City Library, to visit the islands off the West coast of Sweden.

R. D. HALE

Norfolk County Library

Public Lavatory Design

In case any of my colleagues should be misguided enough to think that I was responsible for the fan-shape of my new Branch (see January *Liaison*), I must point out that both the design and description of the building are those of the Borough Surveyor.

Although I was responsible for the design and specifications of the furniture, and also for the interior colour scheme, no part whatsoever of the design of the fabric of the building was left to me. In my opinion, which is honest if not biased, the building is badly conceived, most inconveniently planned, far too small (my Council last month decided to extend it to three times its present size) and is most clearly of the public lavatory design.

I. G. R. STACEY
Chatham P.L.

BINDING EXHIBITION

Members of your Association will almost certainly be interested in an exhibition arranged by the Guild of Contemporary Bookbinders which is being held at Harrods for a fortnight commencing 10th February.

Some fifty examples of outstanding work will be on display and every morning from 10.30 a.m. to

12.30 p.m. there will be a member of the Guild demonstrating the work. In addition Messrs. Sangorski and Sutcliffe are arranging for a team of four workers to attend each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., who between them will demonstrate every process in book-binding from stripping the book to the final polishing.

There will also be a display of gold-beating and gold-leaf work by George M. Whaley Ltd., of Ruislip, and some fine skins lent by Russell Bookcrafts of Hitchin. Hampson Betteridge & Co. Ltd. of Chalk Farm are providing the electric stoves used by the demonstrators and an exhibit of bookbinders' tools.

To the best of my knowledge there has not been a display of this kind in London for the last ten years and this one will demonstrate that craftsmanship is still maintained at its highest standards.

The display will be next to the Book Department on the second floor and all Librarians will be welcome.

CADNESS PAGE
Librarian, Harrods

TECHNICAL LIBRARY SERVICE

Boost for Barrow

The formation of a technical library service, based on a joint memorandum by Barrow's Chief Education Officer (Mr. W. G. Bate) and Chief Librarian (Mr. F. Barnes), has been approved by the Council's Library and Museum Committee. The *North-Western Mail* reported on 7th January that the Ministry of Education had also stated that it is in general agreement with the memorandum.

"Behind the plan", says the *North-Western Mail*, "are two things. One is the Government's drive for better technical education. The other is Barrow's desire to have one good technical library in place of the two now existing (at the Central College of Further Education and the technical section of the Public Library)".

The Ministry of Education, seeking to safeguard the interests of the Central College of Further Education over the purchase of books, has made some suggestions regarding the composition of a proposed Technical Department Advisory sub-committee, and the Library and Museum Committee has recommended the appointment of a technical librarian and one other assistant. The appointments have been deferred pending discussions between the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the Library Committee and the Conditions of Service sub-committee, and the composition of the Technical Department Advisory sub-committee has also been deferred pending discussions between the Librarian and the Town Clerk.

Despite these "technical" hitches it is encouraging to hear of this further example of sensible co-operation between a public library and a college of further education in the cause of a better technical library service.

Wood Green Public Library is issuing small bags for borrowers to take home books in the rain.

ROUGH AT YARMOUTH

"After experience of public libraries in several parts of the country, Great Yarmouth's librarian, Mr. A. C. Hedges, reports that he has never seen books handled so roughly as at Great Yarmouth."

The *Evening News*, reporting this item, said: "cake recipes are cut out, portraits and pictures removed, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has been mutilated, and the Shaw-Barker correspondence fell to pieces after being issued six times". In one book a message written in red ink said: "Fish and chips in oven and make your own tea."

PROPORTIONAL BOOK FUND AT WHITBY

One example of a primitive attitude towards public library provision was given in the January *Liaison* in connection with the proposed mobile library service in the Isle of Ely. Another now comes from the North East, where the Library Sub-Committee of **Whitby Urban Council** has recommended that the Librarian be instructed to allocate annual expenditure on books in the ratio of 75 per cent for fiction and 25 per cent for non-fiction.

A Councillor Hartley supported this proposal because in the previous year 9,540 non-fiction books had only yielded 23,000 issues, while 113,500 issues had been obtained from 2,000 less fiction books. Another Councillor pointed out that "there is tremendous agitation afoot to deprive the council of the public library and place it under the county. We have built it up to its present standard and I hope we are not going to interfere with its working. The purchase of books is no easy matter and we should not tie the librarian's hands". This reasonable view found little support, and an attempt by Councillor Mrs. Ward to have the minute deleted was lost by 12 votes to 4.

News of more broadcasting librarians comes to us via the *North Western Newsletter*. Mr. G. A. Carter, Chief of Warrington, was heard on the Home Service in October, advertising the exhibition held in the old Warrington Academy building to commemorate the bicentenary of that institution. On the air frequently, though in a very different context, is Mr. W. Lowndes, Borough Librarian of Bebington. He gives some of those breathless summaries of Football League games called for every Saturday evening by Eamonn Andrews in Sports Report.

SCISSORS AND PASTE

Librarians E. V. Corbett (Wandsworth) and J. S. Bristow (Croydon) seem to have joined the permanent list of publishers Arco. Each had one book recently published, and two more are now announced for the early summer.

Mr. Bristow is to be joint editor of *Great True Stories of the Air*, and Mr. Corbett has taken time off from writing his new book on the First Professional Examination to compile *Great True Sea Stories*, to be published in June.

*Libraries
and
Librarians*

Local Historian

A librarian very much in his local news is Mr. H. J. Chandler, Borough Librarian of Workington. We have just received a copy of the *Cumberland Star*, dated 17th January. The main front-page article and headline are concerned with a scheme to bridge the gap in local history between 1860, when a history was published, and 1904, when the files of local newspapers take over the story. Mr. Chandler seems to have put forward the idea that much of this gap can probably be filled from the reminiscences of living people of 60 years of age or more. The paper is going to interview old residents and publish their reminiscences.

The same paper contains a large photograph of Mr. Chandler on the middle page, together with an *Observer*-length profile, outlining his library career, civil defence activities and his local history interests. Mr. Chandler regularly contributes local history articles to the *Cumberland Star*.

CAMERA AND COPE CHAT

We reported in January's issue that **Sutton and Cheam Public Libraries** were hoping to instal a photocharger in the near future. Mr. Stanley Dean, the Borough Librarian, has written to inform us that "it went into action on the 9th September last and is going great guns".

He adds, "We are using Cope Chat marginal punched cards as transaction cards and this seems to speed up our sorting very considerably. I do not know of any other library now using these, and if any students are interested we shall always be glad to see them."

RESERVATION FEE

We reported in our last issue that the reservation fee at **Coulson and Purley** had been increased from 3d. to 8d., and asked, "is this a record?" We are glad that no library authority has come forward to claim the dubious honour of beating this record.

Instead, Mr. Bebbington writes from **Sheffield** to inform us that his authority reduced the charge for reservations in January from 4d. to 2d. He says, "My Committee take the view that reservation is part of the public service and should not be charged for as such. They feel, however, that it is only fair to make a postal charge."

Gulbenkian Mobiles

The equivalent in the fifties of the Carnegie Library is the Gulbenkian Mobile Library. *The Times* reported on 18th January that the Gulbenkian Foundation, which already has 10 travelling libraries installed in motor cars, is augmenting its fleet of travelling libraries to 272, which will cover all districts in Portugal, making calls at the same places every 15 days, when three books a person will be lent free of charge.

SHOULD WE BE ASHAMED?

Librarians so often declare the need for more bibliographical aids, particularly to specialized topics, that it is particularly dismaying to find that they do not bother to buy them when they are provided. A great deal of voluntary work has been put in to provide the L.A.'s monthly *Special Subjects Lists* but the L.A.'s Publications Committee is disappointed to find that only 240 copies are sold monthly.

Some libraries take many copies, so it is obvious that there are many public libraries which do not subscribe at all. Talk on the subject became quite heated at one stage when a member questioned whether such libraries had the right to remain independent and suggested that it is the sort of evidence that should be put to the Roberts Committee. Others took a more amiable view and suggested that the lists have not received sufficient publicity.

The price is very low—21s. for twelve monthly lists, each compiled by an expert on a topical subject. Libraries who are subscribing find them useful in both the reference library and in lending departments and many are buying copies for all branches or for distribution to selected members of the public.

Anglo-German Conference

A study tour for 20 German public librarians is being arranged by the Library Association and Anglo-German Educational Relations (G.E.R.) from 9th to 22nd March 1958. During this, a one-day Conference will take place at Chaucer House on Friday, 14th March, with papers from both German and British librarians on the following subjects: (i) National and local financial aspects of Public library administration in Great Britain and Germany, (ii) Training for librarianship as a profession in Great Britain and Germany.

Members interested in attending this Conference should apply to the Secretary of the L.A. as soon as possible as numbers will be limited.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL

Teacher-Librarian Certificate

Assessors decline to take action on L.A. view that it is unrealistic to expect advanced use of the full Decimal Classification.

The Joint Board of Assessors of the L.A. and the School Library Association decided to take no action for the time being on the view of the L.A. Council, that it is unrealistic to expect the advanced use of the full Decimal Classification. It received a report that adequate supplies exist in the country of copies of the 15th standard edition and the 7th abridged edition of the Dewey Classification.

The Board of Assessors wish it to be known that they do not expect unrealistic standards from examinees, having regard to the length of the course, nor do they wish them to become involved in techniques to the detriment of the educational use of the library. In cataloguing they will accept any reasonable entry which will effectively identify a book, and added entries which will adequately connect up with the main entry.

A memorandum on these lines from Mr. Mills of the North Western Polytechnic is being circulated to tutors.

Minimum Exam. Qualifications

The Schools of Librarianship Committee suggested that the minimum educational requirements of candidates for L.A. Examinations should be raised. This will be passed to the sub-committee considering the revision of the syllabus which will not report in detail until its deliberations are completed.

The Northern Branch want to re-introduce the condition of one year's approved library service prior to sitting the First Professional Examination. The Education Sub-Committee, however, felt that as this regulation was re-introduced only two years ago and that the whole question of the syllabus is under revision, it would not be wise to change this regulation at present.

International Library Qualification

A suggestion was considered from Mr. J. F. W. Bryon that the L.A.'s examination syllabus should be sufficiently flexible to allow overseas students to offer qualifications suitable for local conditions. The Education Officer is to consult a number of overseas librarians to obtain their views before referring the question to the Syllabus Sub-Committee.

Syllabus Clarification

Some confusion has arisen over the interpretation of the Registration syllabus in English Literature where the dividing line between the alternative parts is the Romantic Revival. There was some criticism, for example, of the inclusion recently of an examination question on Blake and Burns in the Early Period. The Education Sub-Committee considered clarifying the matter by use of the dates 1360-1780 for the first period and 1780 to the present day for the second.

The Committee gave a very sympathetic hearing to this point of view but felt that less confusion will be caused if the present wording is retained. It is emphasized that it is not the intention of the examiners to draw a rigid chronological line between the two parts. For example, some knowledge of the work of the authors whose work led up to the Romantic Revival would naturally be expected from candidates for the second period, as a full understanding of the later writers is hardly possible without it.

Complaints about Examination Centres

The L.A. Council sympathized with a complaint about poor lighting for examinees at Chaucer House. This is hoped to remedy.

Other complaints about desks and chairs at another London Examination Centre were investigated by the Education Officer but the conditions were not thought to be unreasonable (the only solution would appear to be fully adjustable desks and chairs to suit all lengths of candidate!).

Students are referred to Notes on the Summer 1958 Examinations which appear in the February Record.

Reference Library Statistics

A proposal was received at an earlier meeting that reference library issues should be included in the annual *Statistics of Public Libraries*. The Reference and Special Libraries Section are not in favour of including reference library statistics in these annual tables published by the Library Association because "(a) there is no agreed standard method of compiling such statistics, therefore they are not comparable as between one library and another, and (b) such statistics are not considered to be a true indication of the reference work done".

Nevertheless the Section Committee is in sympathy with the attempt to draw attention to the valuable work of reference libraries in annual reports of various kinds, and they are considering alternative means of publicizing reference work.

L.A. INDEXING ACTIVITIES

Proposal to Extend

One of the most successful of the L.A.'s publishing activities is the *Subject Index to Periodicals* which, after a long period of financial and other difficulties, has emerged with its new quarterly indexes, annual cumulations and local lists both as a generally welcomed and paying proposition.

Noting this, the ever probing eye of Mr. J. F. W. Bryon has been cast upon it and he has suggested that the L.A.'s range of periodical indexing be extended. The Council welcomed his initiative and has set up a small committee to consider the matter. Among other suggestions put forward in committee were a current biography index, portrait index and an index to last-century periodicals.

Unsatisfactory Indexing of Periodicals

The L.A. is to consider the possibility of encouraging editors of commercial and institutional magazines to publish cumulative indexes. Some exploratory work has already been done by the University and Research Section which has now asked the L.A. to take the matter up. A memorandum draws attention, for example, to the need for cumulative indexes in such periodicals as *Engineer*, *Engineering*, and *Nature*.

* * *

Although he is now working outside the profession, the L.A. has asked ex-*Liaison* news editor W. G. Smith to continue to edit the general issues of the monthly *Subject Lists*.

10 Years' Chairmanship Ends

Frank Gardner declined to stand for re-election as Chairman of the L.A. Publications Committee. His work over the last ten years in that office has been outstanding, during which the publications programme has been the heaviest in the Association's history. The Committee received the news with considerable regret and expressed its great appreciation of his work. Mr. Gardner in reply paid a tribute to the work of the permanent staff, particularly the Publications Officer, Mr. Cornell. The Committee appointed Mr. Pottinger of the Scottish Central Library as Mr. Gardner's successor.

* * *

New L.A. Publications include Hill's revision of *National Libraries of the World*, Ranganathan's second edition of *Prolegomena to Library Classification*, the cumulative index 1950-55 of *Library Science Abstracts*, the *Student's Handbook 1958*, and a separate pamphlet containing the *Syllabus of Examinations*. Fuller details are given in the advertisement columns of the *Record*. Students are also reminded that they may now also obtain five-yearly sets of Registration Examination papers.

By the time *Liaison* is published it is hoped that the new *Five Years' Work in Librarianship* will have been published.

Children's Books for Russia

The Children's Books Editor of Collins has been asked to go to Russia in connection with a forthcoming publication, and will be taking over a book exhibition of new and traditional Children's Books. The books will be selected by the Youth Libraries Section of the L.A., and the Library Association will be named as one of the sponsors of the exhibition.

ROBERTS COMMITTEE EVIDENCE

A full report was to have appeared in this issue of the special meeting of the L.A. Council held on 16th January. At this meeting the Council completed and agreed its evidence to go before the Roberts Committee. It has been decided not to publish the report or the evidence before the L.A. representatives meet the Roberts Committee to give oral evidence at the end of February. The report will therefore appear in the March issue of "*Liaison*". The L.A. representatives who will appear before the Roberts Committee will be the Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. B. Paton, and Mr. F. M. Gardner, who was Chairman of the Sub-Committee which prepared the evidence for the Council.

GRADING MATTERS

Chief Librarians . . . A report was received from NALGO that, following the proposed reorganization of negotiating machinery in local government, the J.N.C. for Chief Officers would in future include within its purview only the existing designated Chief Officers, Passenger Transport Managers and County Planning Officers. The reconstituted National Joint Council would consequently include in its purview, at a date to be determined, all other Officers at present within the lettered grades.

A.P.T. II Award . . . The Council also heard that NALGO had been unable to call a meeting of their Grading Sub-Committee before the 3rd February. The result is that the award for librarians cannot now be considered by the National Joint Council before April.

Off the Record

The Reference and Special Libraries Section asked the Council to record and publish as part of the minutes the discussion at Annual General Meeting. The motion containing this proposal was not a confident one, and added a rider that "should it not be accepted, it be arranged that at least an official record of discussions be kept".

The Section are being informed that since the A.G.M. is a private meeting, from which the Press and all strangers are excluded, it would be improper to publish a verbatim report.

University Theses

The University and Research Section have been asked to send a copy of the *Memorandum on the Availability of University Theses*, which appeared in the January *L.A. Record*, to the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom, and also to circulate copies as widely as possible. Offprints of the memorandum are available.

Authority Representation on Council

In the January issue it was reported that eight authorities or associations had been nominated in Council, and that the matter was remitted to the Executive Committee for a decision. The decision at the January meeting was to maintain the status quo. Invitations will be sent to the Committee of Vice Chancellors, the County Councils Associations, and the Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee to appoint one Councillor each for the year. The fourth vacancy is being kept in reserve for the time being.

A request was received from the Borough of Dartford asking to be considered for nomination as a member of the L.A. Council. This was not granted.

ESDAILE MEMORIAL

For some months the Council and the University and Research Section have been corresponding over the question of a memorial to the late Dr. Arundell Esdaile, whose unique services to librarianship and bibliography the Section wished to have commemorated in some concrete way. The Council have accepted the latest suggestion of the University and Research Section that the memorial should take the form of an Esdaile Memorial Lecture to be delivered at intervals by distinguished librarians or bibliographers. The President is to initiate an appeal.

A further suggestion was received from Mr. J. W. F. Bryon that the memorial take the form of a medal to a librarian of any country for an outstanding contribution to the development of librarianship and/or bibliography. Consideration is being given to the possibility of incorporating this suggestion at a later date.

In the Chair

Four of the main committees of the Council have new Chairmen for 1958. They are the Assessors Sub-Committee, where Professor Irwin takes over from Dr. Oldman; the Executive Committee, where Mr. Gardner replaces Mr. Francis; the Publications Committee, where Mr. Pottinger is in place of Mr. Gardner; and the Research Committee, whose new Chairman, Mr. Foksett, takes over the Chair from the President.

During the Council meeting Mr. Hutchings referred to the long and valuable service given by Dr. Oldman as Chairman of the Assessors, and the applause left no doubt that there was general agreement with the warm sentiments expressed by the Honorary Treasurer.

Cloak-room Thefts

Not for the first time coats have been stolen from the cloak-room at Chaucer House. This time two members of the Council lost their overcoats. They are to be compensated without any admission of legal liability on the part of the Association.

Estimates are being obtained for various methods suggested for safeguarding coats, and these will be considered at the next meeting.

L.A. Library

The question of lending current Library Association publications which are in print was raised, and the Librarian will keep a note of such requests and of the persons making them during the next two months. His findings will be submitted to the next meeting of the House and Library Committee.

The printed catalogue of the L.A. Library is nearing completion. Only the title pages and preliminary section are now needed to complete the copy.

BRANCHES AND SECTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting of the **Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch** held on Wednesday, 18th December 1957, the following were elected:

Chairman: Mr. W. H. Brown, A.L.A.

Secretary: Miss K. Young.

Committee: Miss J. P. S. Ferguson, Messrs. P. Clark, A. A. Jeffress, N. R. McCorkindale and J. A. Tait.

Following the business meeting an excellent and provoking address, entitled "The Pressdom of the Free" was given by Dr. D. Macdonald of Methil. Taking the 1745 Rebellion as his starting point and assuming the existence at that time of a press and radio such as we have today, Dr. Macdonald showed how the Press could and does influence the opinions of its readers; how judicious use of such phrases as "it is believed . . ." and "a report from reliable sources says . . ." can cover a multitude of flippant, untrustworthy and untruthful statements. Press material, said the doctor, ought to be grouped, compulsorily, under a classification such as: (1) Facts, (2) Rumours, (3) Speculation and fair comment, (4) Prejudice and propaganda, (5) Gossip, (6) Damned Lies.

"The Pressdom of the Free" was not a printer's or typist's error but a considered title implying the Press domination of the free peoples. We must read selectively and watch carefully for "evidence points to the fact . . ."

Wolfenden Report on Libraries

The *Times* on 6th January carried a report of an address by Sir John Wolfenden to the University and Research Section of the L.A. The race between sputniks and book production, said Sir John, may soon have our globe "covered with cemeteries and libraries".

He pointed out that the student population in universities went up by roughly 4,000 in the years 1952-56, yet out of the total university expenditure, the proportion devoted to libraries stayed practically constant. It was certain that the flow of books and periodicals would increase; so would the number of students. But no one seemed to have prepared information relating numbers of students to library expenditure. He appealed to the librarians themselves to find the answers to his questions and their own problems by providing that information.

A job for the L.A., through the University and Research Section?

A.A.L. AS TRADE UNION

Mr. L. R. McColvin, as one of our most eminent librarians, has always been listened to with interest and respect. Now that he is a member of the Roberts Committee his current pronouncements are followed even more keenly for indications of what may be future professional trends.

Speaking to a joint meeting of the Manchester and Liverpool Divisions of the A.A.L. in November, he said that professional status will never be all that it should be so long as professional staff are employed on routine clerical duties, and that division of staff into professional and non-professional grades is imperative if we are to go forward.

Speaking on the reorganization of the Library Association, Mr. McColvin made the interesting suggestion that the A.A.L. would make an excellent vehicle upon which to place a trade union for librarians, and that this incidentally would re-establish the A.A.L.'s independence. He also referred to the presence of institutional delegates at our A.G.M.s, which he said was making nonsense of our most important gathering because of their ill-informed and forceful statements. Some means, said Mr. McColvin, of curbing their influence upon this meeting must be given high priority by the L.A. Council.

John Bull's Library

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GRADING MATTERS

Chief Librarians . . . A report was received from NALGO that, following the proposed reorganization of negotiating machinery in local government, the J.N.C. for Chief Officers would in future include within its purview only the existing designated Chief Officers, Passenger Transport Managers and County Planning Officers. The reconstituted National Joint Council would consequently include in its purview, at a date to be determined, all other Officers at present within the lettered grades.

A.P.T. II Award . . . The Council also heard that NALGO had been unable to call a meeting of their Grading Sub-Committee before the 3rd February. The result is that the award for librarians cannot now be considered by the National Joint Council before April.

Off the Record

The Reference and Special Libraries Section asked the Council to record and publish as part of the minutes the discussion at Annual General Meeting. The motion containing this proposal was not a confident one, and added a rider that "should it not be accepted, it be arranged that at least an official record of discussions be kept".

The Section are being informed that since the A.G.M. is a private meeting, from which the Press and all strangers are excluded, it would be improper to publish a verbatim report.

University Theses

The University and Research Section have been asked to send a copy of the *Memorandum on the Availability of University Theses*, which appeared in the January *L.A. Record*, to the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom, and also to circulate copies as widely as possible. Offprints of the memorandum are available.

Authority Representation on Council

In the January issue it was reported that eight authorities or associations had been nominated in Council, and that the matter was remitted to the Executive Committee for a decision. The decision at the January meeting was to maintain the status quo. Invitations will be sent to the Committee of Vice Chancellors, the County Councils Associations, and the Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee to appoint one Councillor each for the year. The fourth vacancy is being kept in reserve for the time being.

A request was received from the Borough of Dartford asking to be considered for nomination as a member of the L.A. Council. This was not granted.

ESDAILE MEMORIAL

For some months the Council and the University and Research Section have been corresponding over the question of a memorial to the late Dr. Arundell ESDAILE, whose unique services to librarianship and bibliography the Section wished to have commemorated in some concrete way. The Council have accepted the latest suggestion of the University and Research Section that the memorial should take the form of an ESDAILE Memorial Lecture to be delivered at intervals by distinguished librarians or bibliographers. The President is to initiate an appeal.

A further suggestion was received from Mr. J. W. F. Bryon that the memorial take the form of a medal to a librarian of any country for an outstanding contribution to the development of librarianship and/or bibliography. Consideration is being given to the possibility of incorporating this suggestion at a later date.

In the Chair

Four of the main committees of the Council have new Chairmen for 1958. They are the Assessors Sub-Committee, where Professor Irwin takes over from Dr. Oldman; the Executive Committee, where Mr. Gardner replaces Mr. Francis; the Publications Committee, where Mr. Pottinger is in place of Mr. Gardner; and the Research Committee, whose new Chairman, Mr. Foskett, takes over the Chair from the President.

During the Council meeting Mr. Hutchings referred to the long and valuable service given by Dr. Oldman as Chairman of the Assessors, and the applause left no doubt that there was general agreement with the warm sentiments expressed by the Honorary Treasurer.

Cloak-room Thefts

Not for the first time coats have been stolen from the cloak-room at Chaucer House. This time two members of the Council lost their overcoats. They are to be compensated without any admission of legal liability on the part of the Association.

Estimates are being obtained for various methods suggested for safeguarding coats, and these will be considered at the next meeting.

L.A. Library

The question of lending current Library Association publications which are in print was raised, and the Librarian will keep a note of such requests and of the persons making them during the next two months. His findings will be submitted to the next meeting of the House and Library Committee.

* * *

The printed catalogue of the L.A. Library is nearing completion. Only the title pages and preliminary section are now needed to complete the copy.

BRANCHES AND SECTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting of the **Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch** held on Wednesday, 18th December 1957, the following were elected:

Chairman: Mr. W. H. Brown, A.L.A.

Secretary: Miss K. Young.

Committee: Miss J. P. S. Ferguson, Messrs. P. Clark, A. A. Jeffress, N. R. McCorkindale and J. A. Tait.

Following the business meeting an excellent and provoking address, entitled "The Pressdom of the Free" was given by Dr. D. Macdonald of Methil. Taking the 1745 Rebellion as his starting point and assuming the existence at that time of a press and radio such as we have today, Dr. Macdonald showed how the Press could and does influence the opinions of its readers; how judicious use of such phrases as "it is believed . . ." and "a report from reliable sources says . . ." can cover a multitude of flippant, untrustworthy and untruthful statements. Press material, said the doctor, ought to be grouped, compulsorily, under a classification such as: (1) Facts, (2) Rumours, (3) Speculation and fair comment, (4) Prejudice and propaganda, (5) Gossip, (6) Damned Lies.

"The Pressdom of the Free" was not a printer's or typist's error but a considered title implying the Press domination of the free peoples. We must read selectively and watch carefully for "evidence points to the fact . . ."

Wolfenden Report on Libraries

The Times on 6th January carried a report of an address by Sir John Wolfenden to the University and Research Section of the L.A. The race between sputniks and book production, said Sir John, may soon have our globe "covered with cemeteries and libraries".

He pointed out that the student population in universities went up by roughly 4,000 in the years 1952-56, yet out of the total university expenditure, the proportion devoted to libraries stayed practically constant. It was certain that the flow of books and periodicals would increase; so would the number of students. But no one seemed to have prepared information relating numbers of students to library expenditure. He appealed to the librarians themselves to find the answers to his questions and their own problems by providing that information.

A job for the L.A., through the University and Research Section?

A.A.L. AS TRADE UNION

Mr. L. R. McColvin, as one of our most eminent librarians, has always been listened to with interest and respect. Now that he is a member of the Roberts Committee his current pronouncements are followed even more keenly for indications of what may be future professional trends.

Speaking to a joint meeting of the Manchester and Liverpool Divisions of the A.A.L. in November, he said that professional status will never be all that it should be so long as professional staff are employed on routine clerical duties, and that division of staff into professional and non-professional grades is imperative if we are to go forward.

Speaking on the reorganization of the Library Association, Mr. McColvin made the interesting suggestion that the A.A.L. would make an excellent vehicle upon which to place a trade union for librarians, and that this incidentally would re-establish the A.A.L.'s independence. He also referred to the presence of institutional delegates at our A.G.M.s, which he said was making nonsense of our most important gathering because of their ill-informed and forceful statements. Some means, said Mr. McColvin, of curbing their influence upon this meeting must be given high priority by the L.A. Council.

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INDEX TO WORD TRADE MARKS

For some time the Group of principal City Librarians has been pressing the Patent Office to produce an index to word trade marks. This pressure finally resulted in Mr. Bebbington (Sheffield) and Mr. Woods (Birmingham) being accorded an interview at the Board of Trade offices with the Second Secretary and representatives of the Patent Office and the Trade Marks Registry.

A printed index of the type the City Librarians had in mind was considered impossible for financial and other reasons, but an index on slips will now be issued by the Patent Office to libraries on a subscription basis. The scheme is expected to start before 1st April this year, covering all new registrations, and the rate of subscription will be about £30 per annum. All the principal City Librarians agreed to recommend their authorities to subscribe, and Mr. Bebbington, on behalf of the group, contacted other appropriate authorities. Apparently, sufficient favourable replies were received to convince the Patent Office that it was worthwhile going ahead with the scheme.

Mr. Bebbington writes: "I feel satisfied myself that although the proposed index is not as comprehensive as we should like it to be, since it will not include expired registrations and renewals, it will nevertheless be of great value."

Reading in South Africa

Professor G. Cronje, head of the Department of Sociology at Pretoria University, addressing the South African Library Association recently, gave an insight into South African reading habits and an indication of the number of books and periodicals read in the Union.

Some 100 million copies of periodicals are distributed every year. In 1954 and 1955 it had been reckoned that 420 million copies a year of books, periodicals and newspapers reached the reading public. In 1954, at least 130 million books, mostly of a cheap kind, and two million good books, had been imported. Altogether Professor Cronje estimated that about 20,000,000 copies of books were distributed in a year, but the majority of these were cheap publications.

Details of publishing and bookselling have recently become known. The Union has 22 ordinary publishers and eight mission publishers, and in 1951 approximately 800 titles (excluding Government publications) were published in the Union, i.e., 0.6 per 10,000 of the population. There are only about 300 booksellers in the Union, and this includes roughly 130 branches of the Union's largest distributing organizations.

L.Ps. in P.Ls.

"The call of the long-playing record, delicately modulated and faithfully amplified", says the *Manchester Guardian*, "has been heard by the librarians of Britain; and they are responding in surprisingly large numbers".

The *Guardian's* London staff, reviewing record development in British libraries, pointed out that before the war it was almost impossible to find a public gramophone record collection of any sort in Britain, and that now 85 library authorities (out of 580) have their own stocks of short and long players which the public can borrow free of charge. An estimate is given that last year forty thousand people took home between them 1,370,000 records, mostly L.Ps.

The hub of this activity is the London area, which contains 39 of the collections, 23 of them in the metropolitan boroughs. Of the six metropolitan boroughs which still do not provide records, the *Guardian* singles out Chelsea for comment, on the grounds that there "few bed-sitting rooms can be without a record player".

In a letter to the *Guardian* Mr. Philip Whiteman (Lecturer at the Leeds School of Librarianship) challenged the paper's assertion that "attempts to make borrowers pay a subscription have all failed". Mr. Whiteman drew attention to a survey of fifty public library collections carried out by Mr. L. G. Lovell for Middlesbrough Public Libraries in 1953, and said that this showed that three libraries were making a charge—one 25s. per annum, one 2d. per disc, and one 1d. per 78 r.p.m. disc and 6d. per L.P. disc. He also quoted a more recent example provided by Leeds, where a subscription of £1 per annum is required.

The main object of Mr. Whiteman's letter was to clarify the legal position concerning charges of any kind in libraries. The letter ended with the comment: "Why do the authorities get away with it? Simply because their position as self-appointed tax collectors has never been challenged in the courts."

Over-Reading

"Dear Editor: I am 100 per cent in favor of the curtailment of library service. There are too many interests in the world of entertainment today for people to bother chiefly with books. Especially in this new era of television, who finds much time to read anything but a newspaper? Don't get me wrong. I don't condemn literature entirely. But there is such a thing as over-reading."

(A letter to the *Philadelphia Inquirer* quoted in an article, *Inner Liberty in the Machine Age* in *The New Leader* for 14th October.)

TAKE HOME BOOKS

Miss Joan Torrance, a member of the Liverpool Public Libraries staff, sent us a pamphlet about public libraries which she found being issued in a Liverpool factory. It is entitled *It's All Free*: its author is Benedict Richards, who is described as "a writer and editor who finds the raw materials of his work on the shelves of a variety of libraries—public, private, specialist and general".

The pamphlet is attractively produced in two colours, and it sets out quite simply to describe how to use the library, its catalogue (dictionary) and classification (Dewey, of course). There are short sections also on art galleries and museums. Some of the illustrations were provided by the Library Association.

This pamphlet on libraries is one of a series called *Take Home Books* produced by an Editorial Board which includes Graham Hutton, the economist, and Michael Middleton, former Editor of *Lilliput* and Assistant Editor of *Picture Post*. They are published by Newman Neame, and range in price from 7d. to 10d. per copy, according to quantity ordered. A new pamphlet is produced every fortnight.

Aimed at workers in industry from shop floor to office, the *Take Home Books* service is designed to:

- (1) "make workpeople at all levels alive to the complex problems and opportunities in the modern world;
- (2) stimulate personal and team endeavour;
- (3) improve industrial relations by showing the importance of work and workpeople in a changing, challenging world;
- (4) reduce such problems as rapid turnover of labour, absenteeism, proneness to illness or accident, and suspicion of new ideas or methods".

Boccaccio on microfilm

The famous D'Este *Decameron* in the Earl of Leicester's library is being microfilmed in colour. This late fifteenth century Italian manuscript copy was illustrated by the Ferrarese painter Taddeo Crivelli. The 35 mm. microfilm may be purchased for libraries.

Flooring and Heating

The Royal Institute of British Architects and the Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers are to be approached with a view to obtaining up-to-date information and advice for librarians on problems connected with library flooring and heating.

* * *

Arising out of a letter from Mr. Haugh, the Chairman of the House and Library Committee, is to investigate various methods of ventilation for the Committee Room at Chaucer House. Authority has been given to instal equipment costing not more than £40.

PLAIN WORDS

Most of the national dailies gleefully reported in January criticisms by Mr. John Archbold, president of the National Union of Teachers, of what the *Daily Telegraph* called "off-form English" used by various bodies. Among the samples quoted were a Government department form in best officialese, a dance hall warning, and a public library notice which read: "Only low conversation is allowed here." While this may be a proper and suitable notice to appear in the staff-room we feel that there is a grave possibility that such notices still exist in public departments, particularly reading rooms and reference libraries. It is to be hoped that librarians examining their buildings in connection with their 1958-59 estimates will remove these period pieces to the library archives.

New Bookbinding Techniques

Some ways in which bookbinding might be improved were discussed by Mr. Lewis Kitcat in the third Cantor lecture on *Some practical aspects of book production* at a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts in London in January.

Mr. Kitcat noted that the standard binding today gave a free opening book without that "disastrous pistol report" which was common even 25 years ago, and in general "it is trimmer and smarter in every way". Looking into the future, he said that the self-adjusting binding machine, electronically controlled and capable of dealing with a range of sizes and thicknesses, was not as yet "practical politics"; but doubtless, as time went on, binding machinery manufacturers would be able to borrow from the discoveries made by larger industries, "and the all-embracing press-button machine will be with us".

He referred to unsewn binding and the Steamset process as the main innovations in the structural methods of binding that had recently taken place. A long overdue improvement, required in all covering materials, was the production of a finish fully resistant to finger-marking, and without having to resort to a glazed effect.

New Inner Temple Library

Overlooking the Embankment from the Temple lawns is a big black corrugated iron structure with a sloping roof, one of London's most repulsive eyesores. This monstrosity was erected by the Admiralty during the war as a gunnery school, but since the war it has been used to store books from the Inner Temple's bombed library.

The new library is now nearly ready, and the staff expects to move in next March. The eyesore may well last a few months beyond that date.

AMERICAN LIBRARY RESEARCH

The Council on Library Resources (which has been established for five years with a five million dollar grant from the Ford Foundation) has named its first three research projects.

1. A 2 years' study, *Targets for Research in Library Work*, is being conducted by Ralph Shaw (associated with the Rapid Selector and now Professor of Library Service at Rutgers University, New Jersey). His purpose is to identify problems affecting library practice upon which basic research could be directed, if need be "discarding all assumptions derived from present library organization".
2. *Deterioration of Book Stock—Causes and Remedies*. An 18 months' investigation into the deterioration of paper, on the assumption that this is "due to causes which can be obviated in manufacture, or arrested after manufacture, at costs much less than any present process of document preservation" (such as laminating or photocopying). The investigator is W. J. Barrow, documents-restorer of Virginia State Library and the inventor of an internationally adopted system of document preservation.
3. *Closed-Circuit TV. in a Decentralized Library Situation*. Telefacsimile has been used for many years in newspaper and business work to scan, transmit, and then to reproduce at a reception point, copies of required papers. Although for the present the system is still too slow for libraries, and cannot cope with books, it is clear that when it does become practicable it could radically alter methods of service, particularly in special libraries. The Council has therefore decided to finance a year's test of closed-circuit television, as being the nearest approach that can yet be made in libraries to telefacsimile. The installation will operate between the central library and several of the departmental libraries of the University of Virginia.

D. R. JAMIESON

BRAINE AT BINGLEY

The County Libraries Section will hold its week-end school this year at the Bingley Training College, Yorkshire, from 11th to 14th April. We have now received some details of the programme.

Three county librarians will be giving papers: Mr. Berriman (Middlesex) on *Design and the Library*, a talk which will be illustrated by an exhibition of photographs and plans, and, one feels, a good deal of recent personal experience; Miss Paulin (Hertfordshire) on *Education for Librarians, and the L.A. Examination Syllabus*, a subject for which her experience as Chairman of the L.A. Education Sub-Committee makes her an obvious first choice; and Mr. Budge (Warwickshire) on *£ s. d.*, which will deal with county library estimates. Since Mr. Budge holds the money-bags of the Section his views on this subject should be of interest to all members attending.

Guest speaker, and our three well-known librarians are likely to forgive us for saying also, star speaker, will be John Braine, who on the Sunday evening will talk on *How to Write a Novel*.

A social evening is being arranged for the Friday, and visits to places of interest on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The cost, excluding excursions and travelling expenses, will be 25s. for each full day, plus appropriate charges for parts of days. Applications, accompanied by a non-returnable deposit of 10s., should reach the Honorary Secretary, County Libraries Section, County Library, County Hall, Hertford, not later than 22nd March 1958—and preferably, earlier.